

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECRET

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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

SUBJECT

1. Military Units in Hungary
2. Alleged New Soviet Equipment
3. The Hungarian Uprising

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

Information is given on the following: (1) The Hunyadi János Advanced Infantry Officers' School, including manpower, training areas, equipment, and curriculum. (2) Additional military units including (where known) locations and personalities. (3) Unidentified new Soviet equipment (tanks, artillery weapons, and armored personnel carriers). (4) Events during the Hungarian uprising, and (5) A new Hungarian militia.

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COUNTRY: Hungary

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Hungarian OB (Prior to November 1956)

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- b. The school was subordinate to the Battle Training and Physical Education Group Directorate of the Ministry of Defense (Honvédelmi Minisztérium Harckiképzési és Testnevelési Csoport Főnökség) in Budapest.
- c. The actual strength of the school was as follows: 140 students, ranking from Lieutenant to Major; a staff of 51 officers including instructors and administrative personnel; 96 or 98 civilian employees such as mess and supply personnel, drivers, and mechanics; a guard detachment of 62 enlisted men; and a school band consisting of 16 enlisted men. [redacted] the total of 140 students included 25 AVH officers, both Internal Security and Border Police.
- d. The school was located at Tatabánya and identified by a sign over the entrance which read the same as a. above. There was no street address.
- e. The training areas used by the school were a firing range located at Tarján (N 47-36, E 18-30), approximately 14 kilometers from

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Tatabánya; and, for field problems, the terrain surrounding Tatabánya.

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g. The Commanding Officer of the school was Colonel József Tóth, Infantry. He graduated from the Soviet Frunze Academy in 1953 after a three-year course.

h. The school had the following major items of equipment:

- (1) 8 3-ton Csepel trucks used for transportation of personnel. Four were diesel and four were gasoline-powered.
- (2) 1 "Ikarusz" conventional bus (diesel)
- (3) 1 Csepel ambulance (gasoline)
- (4) 1 "Puch" (?) motorcycle, 150 cubic centimeters
- (5) 1 Soviet 57 mm AT Gun, M 1943
- (6) 3 Soviet 82 mm mortars
- (7) 4 Soviet 7.62 mm HMG, 1910, "Maxim"
- (8) 24 or 26 Soviet 7.62 mm SMG, PPSH-41
- (9) 8 Soviet 7.62 mm LMG, Model DP
- (10) 189 or 190 Soviet 7.62 mm rifles, M 1891/30, Mossin - Nagant
- (11) 90 7.62 mm semi-automatic pistols, TT M 1933, "Tokarev"

i. The school's training course lasted 10¹/₂ months and the students graduated as Infantry company and battalion commanding officers. The curriculum included advanced infantry officer training in theoretical and practical subjects and a brief study of the characteristics of the following branches: Artillery, Armor, Engineers, Signal, and Chemical Warfare. The training in the other branches included such information as would be needed by the Infantry commanding officers in combined tactical operations.

2. [redacted] information about other units.

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a. The 9th Rifle Corps in Budapest was deactivated in September 1956 and a new unit organized, the first of its kind in Hungary. It was designated the 4th Army and had its headquarters in Budapest.

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it was possible that the activation of this unit was a result of an overall plan for the organization armies according to the terms of the Warsaw Pact. The 4th Army was the administrative and tactical headquarters of the two corps in Hungary, the 6th Rifle Corps and the 3rd Mechanized Corps, and it was directly subordinate to the Ministry of Defense. Its Commanding Officer was Brigadier General Uszta (fnu), Armored Branch. He attended the Voroshilov Academy in

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the USSR for two years, graduating in 1956. Colonel Arató (fnu), Infantry, was Political Deputy and second in command. The Training Officer was Brigadier General Imre Kovács, Infantry, who was graduated from the Frunze Academy in 1954. The Atomic Warfare and Chief Chemical Warfare Officer was Captain Sós, (fnu), Chemical Warfare Service.

- b. The 6th Rifle Corps, subordinate to the 4th Army, had its headquarters in Szekesfehérvár. This corps was composed of three rifle divisions and other attached units [redacted]

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Its Commanding Officer was Brigadier General Mikes (fnu), Infantry, a graduate of the Frunze Academy in 1954. Chief of Staff was Colonel Béla Kemendy, Infantry, a Frunze Academy graduate in 1955. [redacted]

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The corps had the following divisions: (1) 17th Rifle Division, located in Kaposvár (N 46-21, E 17-47), commanded by Colonel Matics (fnu). The Chief of Staff was Major Pal Szaraz. (2) An unidentified rifle division in Pápa (N 47-20, E 17-28) commanded by Colonel Ferenc Moor, Infantry. The Political Deputy was Major Bokor (fnu), Infantry, and the Chief of Staff was Major József Safar, Infantry. (3) 9th Rifle Division in Keszthely (N 46-46, E 17-15), commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Lajos Fejes, Infantry. The Political Deputy was Major Albert Tátrai, Infantry, and Chief of Staff was Losoncy (fnu), Infantry.

c.

[redacted] The following units were part of the 9th Rifle Division:

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- (1) 38th Rifle Regiment, located in Tapolca (N 46-53, E 17-26), commanded by Major Gucsi (fnu), Infantry.
- (2) 33rd Rifle Regiment in Zalaegerszeg (N 46-50, E 16-51), commanded by Major Zoltán Borka, Infantry.
- (3) 32nd Rifle Regiment in Lenti (N 46-36, E 16-32), commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Rácz (fnu), Infantry.
- (4) 27th Armored Regiment in Tapolca (N 46-53, E 17-26), commanded by Major Révész (fnu), Armor. This was equipped with T-34 Soviet tanks and was an "A" type unit.
- (5) 32nd Artillery Regiment in Zalaegerszeg, commanded by Captain Tóth (fnu), Artillery. This unit had 122 mm howitzers and was of "A" type.
- (6) 31st Artillery Regiment in Marcali (N 46-35, E 17-25). [redacted] This unit was "B" type. The 1st and 2nd Battalions each were equipped with 24 122 mm mortars; the 3rd Battalion had 120 mm mortars.
- (7) 58th AT Artillery Battalion (Osztály) with 76 mm AT guns and commanded by Senior Lieutenant László Albert, Artillery. The battalion had 24 guns.
- (8) 18th AA Artillery Battalion (Osztály) with 36 85 mm Soviet AA guns, commanded by Captain Teleki (fnu), Artillery.

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- (9) 68th Engineer Battalion (unknown type), commanded by Major Varga, (fnu), Engineers.
- (10) Unidentified Reconnaissance Company in Keszthely, commanded by Senior Lieutenant Kertesz (fnu), Reconnaissance.
- (11) Unidentified Signal Battalion in Keszthely, commanded by Captain Bedy (fnu). This battalion had one telephone, one radio, and one Signal Center Training Company.

c. The other corps (see a. above), the 3rd Mechanized Corps, which was also subordinate to the 4th Army Headquarters in Budapest, was commanded by Brigadier General Gyurko (fnu), Infantry, who had [] formerly served with an airborne unit. The Political Deputy was Lieutenant Colonel Kiss (fnu), Infantry, and the Chief of Staff was Brigadier General Házi (fnu), branch unknown, but [] he had been the Hungarian Air Force Commanding Officer at one time. The corps headquarters was located in an unknown caserne in Kecskemét. [] the 3rd Mechanized Corps consisted of predominantly "A" type units. [] this corps was composed of four rifle divisions which were located as follows:

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- (1) Unidentified rifle division in Kalocsa, commanded by Major Ungvári (fnu), Infantry, a graduate of the Frunze Academy in 1955. The Chief of Staff was Lieutenant Colonel Altari (fnu), Infantry. Allegedly, this division was scheduled for deactivation some time in 1956.
- (2) 8th Rifle Division in Békéscsaba, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel István Tóth, Infantry. The Political Deputy was Major Kuruc (fnu), Infantry, and the Chief of Staff was Lieutenant Colonel József Károly, Infantry.
- (3) Unidentified rifle division in Kecskemét, commanded by Colonel Kádár (fnu).
- (4) Unidentified rifle division in Kiskunfélegyháza (N 46-43, E 19-51), commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Bakonyi (fnu), Infantry, a graduate of the Frunze Academy in 1955. [] this division had the following unidentified components: Rifle Regiment in Szeged, Rifle Regiment in Kiskunhalas (N 46-26, E 19-29), Rifle Regiment in Kiskunmajsa (N 46-29, E 19-44), and Artillery Regiment in Kiskunfélegyháza.

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d. [] there was an unidentified Assault Artillery Division located in Cegléd which was directly subordinate to the 4th Army in Budapest. The Commanding Officer of this division was Lieutenant Colonel Csehi (fnu), Artillery, and the Chief of Staff was Captain Cirankó (fnu), Artillery. The division was equipped with 72 122 mm and 72 152 mm Soviet guns of an unknown type. [] it also had 36 120 mm mortars.

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e.

- (1) Unidentified Armored Division in Esztergom, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Mecseri (fnu), Armor.
- (2) 5th Armored Division in Gyöngyös (N 47-47, E 19-56).
- (3) Unidentified Armored Officers' Candidate School in Tata (N 47-39, E 18-19), commanded by Colonel Lázár (fnu).
- (4) Unidentified AAA Division in Miskolc (N 48-06, E 20-47), commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Zombori (fnu), AA Artillery. This division was subordinate to OLLEP (National Air Force and Air Defense Headquarters) in Budapest.
- (5) Unidentified Chemical Battalion in Kistarcsa (N 47-32, E 19-16), which [] was a training unit. It was directly subordinate to the Ministry of Defense. 25X1
- (6) Unidentified Chemical Battalion in Tab (N 46-43, E 18-02) which was directly subordinate to the 4th Army in Budapest. In 1954 this unit had sent a team to the Hunyadi János Advanced Infantry Officers' School where they had demonstrated simulated decontamination of men and equipment. This battalion was an operational unit.
- (7) 48th Independent Rifle Regiment, located in Debrecen (N 47-31, E 21-39), and commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Csorba (fnu). This regiment was directly subordinate to the 9th Rifle Corps in Debrecen until the end of 1953, at which time it was moved to Budapest and was deactivated in September 1956.
- (8) 52nd Independent Mechanized Rifle Regiment in Nyíregyháza (N 47-58, E 21-43), commanded by Major Hubicska (fnu), Infantry, and subordinate to the 9th Rifle Corps during the unit's existence. (See 2-a. above.)
- (9) Unidentified Miner Brigade consisting of about six battalions, each independent, with a total strength of about 9,000 men. The personnel were scattered through the coal region in the vicinity of Tata, Pecs, and Miskolc. The Commanding Officer of this unit was Colonel Maleter (fnu), Infantry. This unit's enlisted men were those who desired to perform their obligatory service in coal mines and who had received only basic training. In addition to their regular pay, they received an additional 300 forints per month. Their training consisted usually of drills which took place about two hours per week. Some of the officers of this unit were drawn from the 1st Independent Horse Cavalry Division at Nyregyháza. [] these were the last horse-mounted units in the Hungarian Army and when the regiment was deactivated, most of the enlisted men and about 75 percent of the officers were demobilized. The remaining officers formed the officer cadre of the Miner Brigade. Unidentified 25X1 25X1
- (10) Parachute Regiment in Kaposvár (N 46-21, E 17-47) [] this unit was deactivated in 1954 and [] the personnel were incorporated into unknown rifle units in Székesfehérvár. 25X1

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- 6 -Soviet OB (Prior to November 1956)

3. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] Prior to the Hungarian uprising the following unidentified Soviet units were located at the localities listed below.
- a. An Armored "Brigade" some place between Kőszeg and Szombathely which was rumored to have about 180 T-34 tanks.
 - b. Unidentified Armored Unit armed with T-34 tanks in Kormend (N 47-01, E 16-36).
 - c. Unidentified Armored Corps Headquarters and two unidentified Mechanized Regiments in Székesfehérvár.
 - d. Soviet Air Division with unknown type of MIG planes in Veszprém (N 47-05, E 17-54).
 - e. Soviet Armored Division in Cegléd.
 - f. Soviet Mortar Regiment with 120 mm mortars in Nagykőrös (N 47-02, E 19-46).
 - g. Soviet Corps Headquarters in Kecskemét.
 - h. Soviet Air Division, with an unknown type of planes in Pápa.
 - i. Armored Regiment in Győr (N 47-41, E 17-38).
 - j. Soviet Air Division equipped with an unknown type of MIG plane in Debrecen.

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New Soviet Equipment

4. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] There were about 300 Hungarian officers present, most of whom ranged in rank from Major through Brigadier General. The weapons were displayed in the yard of the installation. [redacted] 25X1
- a. An unidentified Soviet tank which Soviet officers said was an amphibious T-34 tank with a boat-like attachment at the bottom. [redacted] 25X1
 - b. An artillery piece which he described as an 85 mm gun with single baffle muzzle brake. The gun had two rubber wheels in the front

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and one smaller, (65 to 70 cm) rubber wheel in the rear. To the rear of the gun was a small diesel engine. [] the speed with which the gun could be moved ranged from four kilometers per hour to 20 kilometers per hour, and [] it could be towed by truck. It had a six-man crew. [] when the gun was in firing position, the rear wheel could be moved up in a side position.

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- c. An unidentified heavy tank. [] estimated the gun of the tank to be 122 mm or 152 mm. [] the tank had a muzzle brake and that it was shaped like a turtle. 25X1
- d. A T-34 85mm tank. [] not see any difference in appearance between this tank and the regular T-34 tank until the tank was driven over uneven slabs of concrete, at which time he observed that the gun maintained a horizontal position even though the tank pitched and rolled. This indicated [] some unknown type of mechanism which stabilized the gun. 25X1
- e. A four-barreled AAA gun, the caliber [] estimated as 37 mm. The gun was installed in the bed of an armored personnel carrier. It had a six-man crew. 25X1
- f. An armored personnel carrier which resembled a light SP gun. [] estimated [] the vehicle had 6 mm armor and it had six wheels. The vehicle was open on top and the entrance hatch was in the rear. 25X1
- g. A 100 mm AT weapon which consisted of a straight tube about two meters long which rested on a detachable tripod. The weapon had a crew of four. 25X1

Atomic Warfare Training

- 5. [] the following information about atomic warfare training: 25X1
 - a. [] a military handbook called Handbook on Atomic Defense (Atomvédelmi Kézikönyv). It was a gray book consisting of 150 to 160 pages. [] there were about eight pages dealing with chemistry and physics and the rest of the book dealt with the practical aspects of atomic defense. The text contained many illustrations. [] in 1954 all officers of the Hungarian Army were required to read this book and to take a test afterwards. (See l. e. (6) above.) 25X1
 - b. According to Hungarian Army teaching, a medium atomic bomb had an effective range of about 1500 meters against unprotected individuals; the bomb was effective only at 800 meters if soldiers used foxholes. 25X1

Biological Warfare

- 6. [] in the summer of 1956 there were unspecified top-secret experiments with biological 25X1

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warfare at this Institute. [] the captain was afraid to talk further on this subject.

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Events in Hungary in October - November 1956

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7.

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a. On 23 or 24 October 1956, Lieutenant Colonel Mecseri (fnu), Armored, the Commanding Officer of an unidentified Armored Division in Esztergom (N 47-47, E 18-45), ordered his troops to fire at people demonstrating in the streets of Esztergom. As a result, 18 people were killed. Colonel Mecseri allegedly had received his orders from the Ministry of Defense in Budapest. [] this division, after firing on the Hungarian people, changed sides because its members refused to follow any further firing orders. The Communist officers left the unit, and other officers organized it to fight with the insurgents. [] this was the only incident when Hungarian Army troops fired on the insurgents.

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b. The personnel of the unidentified Armored Officers' Candidate School in Tata, commanded by Colonel Lázár (fnu), were also ordered by its Commanding Officer to fight against the insurgents but all refused to do so. They had been transferred to Budapest on 23 October. Following this refusal, Colonel Lazar was transferred to the Ministry of Defense, relinquishing his command to Major János Zakocs who organized the members of the school to fight against the Soviets and the AVH troops in Budapest.

c. [] many units had broken up at the beginning of the revolution and the personnel had gone home but that on 8 November all such people were ordered back to their units.

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d. [] 25X1

[] In addition to the 18 Hungarians killed in Esztergom, [] another incident when a larger number of insurgents lost their lives. On 23 October a large number of Hungarian youths was assembled in Tatabánya by an AVH lieutenant who claimed to be a freed political prisoner. The lieutenant told the group that he would take them to Budapest where they would fight against the Soviets. Twelve buses were confiscated and fully loaded, and the group departed for Budapest. When they arrived at Bicske (N 47-29, E 18-38), near Budapest, the lieutenant, who was leading the convoy in a Pobeda passenger car, sped up inside the city and immediately following this, MG fire opened up at the buses from all sides. The youths in ten of the buses were massacred. The last two buses were able to turn around and make their way back to Tatabánya. [] the AVH lieutenant had planned this incident and made advance arrangements with AVH troops near Budapest.

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e. [] in Győr on 24 October 1956, the Commanding Officer of the Soviet troops requested the newly formed city revolutionary council to issue an

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an order not to molest the Soviets and their dependents in Győr, promising in return that the Soviet troops under his command would not fight against the Hungarians. [] this garrison kept its promise until 4 November at which time they initiated an attack and took over the city. However, [] by 4 November the garrison had been increased with Soviet troops newly arrived from the USSR.

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f. On 23 October 1956 a standard order from the Ministry of Defense was telephoned to all Hungarian military installations that the installations must be defended at all costs against any insurgent elements. The areas where political prisoners were interned were to be secured and civilians considered reliable (Communists) were to be armed. The order further stated that all "Fascists" were to be liquidated as quickly as possible. [] the temporary Commanding Officer [] organized the defense in accordance with these instructions and ordered three HMG's placed at each entrance to the installation. These were manned by students. The guard detachment of the school was posted around the installation and armed with Soviet SMG's PPSH-41. At each HMG position source placed one [] new to be non-Communist. He issued orders only in the event a red flare was observed. [] and stated that he would not have ordered insurgents if they had attacked the installation.

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g. Also on 23 October 1956 another order was received from the Ministry of Defense that all vehicles coming from the direction of Budapest were to be searched for weapons and if any were found, the passengers were to be turned over to the nearest AVH contingent.

h. On 26 October 1956 [] unit received copies of orders from the Ministry of Defense, signed by Colonel Maléter, as a Deputy Minister of Defense, directing the members of the unidentified Miner Brigade, who were under Colonel Maléter's command, to resume their work in the mines. []

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i. Also on 26 October orders signed by Major General Karoly Janza, the new Minister of Defense, were received stating that all Hungarian military units were (1) to change their uniform insignia, (2) to organize a national militia, and (3) to liquidate the AVH.

j. On 26 October 1956 the Commanding Officer of the AVH in Tatabánya came to [] and told [] that he was on the side of the insurgents and wanted to take charge of the installation. [] the man arrested and sent to the local AVH office where he was placed under house arrest. On this same date the enlisted men of the AVH detachment in Tatabánya and an unknown number of their officers armed themselves and left the city for the surrounding woods where they intended to defend themselves. On 1 and 2 November 1956 most of these men returned to the city and gave themselves up. They were disarmed and arrested. The Tatabánya revolutionary council decided that the AVH members would be tried through regular courts at a later date.

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New Hungarian Militia

k. In accordance with the orders from the Ministry of Defense, [] organized a group of 300 to 330 men consisting of civilians who were

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former soldiers and not Communists. [] placed in command a popular young miner, Victor Szabó, [] commissioned a captain.

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[] Another miner, Dévényi (fnu), who was a reserve officer, was placed second in command and commissioned a senior lieutenant. On 4 November 1956, when the Soviets attacked throughout Hungary, [] ordered the militia to retreat from the city and to take up positions in the Turul hills. A group of about 200 civilians joined the militia and retreated to the hills. The group took with them about 200 liters of gasoline, four truckloads of small-arms ammunition and hand grenades. They were armed only with light weapons such as Soviet rifles and SMG's PPSH-41. They also had two Maxim HMG's and an unknown number of Soviet LMG's. [] all the weapons and ammunition had been confiscated from the AVH and that he turned over all the weapons and ammunition available at the school. [] remained in the city to organize food supplies for the militia.

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Mass Discharges from the Military Service

1. [] heard of no formal discharges from the military service during the revolution. [] the last regular discharges were normal ones in the early days of October 1956.

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Reinforcement of Soviet Military Forces

- m. [] on 2 November large infantry contingents of Soviets had crossed over into Hungary from the USSR by way of Záhony (N 48-24, E 22-11). [] on 4 November Soviet armored troops with about 140 tanks had entered Hungary from the CSR by way of Komárom (N 47-45, E 18-06).

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1. [] Comment: "A" and "B" types of units are designations used in the Hungarian Army to indicate battle readiness. An "A" type unit was considered up to full strength in men and equipment; the "B" type unit was one either in the training stage with insufficient equipment, or a unit which could not pass a test called the Battleworthiness Proficiency Test (Harcmentek Megállapító Vizsga).

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CORRECTION

In paragraph 3k of PSD/1273 the parachute regiment at Kaposvar listed as a Soviet unit is in fact a Hungarian unit. It is listed correctly in paragraph 1e (10).

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